

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The invention relates to flexible straws with one (or more) corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising ~~consisting of~~ re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), which are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are continuously ~~permanently~~ bent until their use in order to take up less space. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The straws used to date for this purpose have one corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising ~~consisting of~~ 8-10 re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds). [The first (or the last) fold, being firm, is not counted as re-entrant overlapping fold]. To bend to obtuse angles (e.g. 180°) due to the restricted number of folds, continuous external pressure has to be exercised. This pressure keeps being exercised by the packaging material afterwards as well. As a result the folds are permanently deformed and straightening of the straw is not possible. Also a problem is posed by the fact that all folds are expanded (unfolded) after bending of the straw. (e.g. The U-shaped straws.) --

Page 3 of 13

Appl. No. 10/089,901
Amdt. dated Oct. 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 15, 2002

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The corrugated zone (flexible zone) of the new straw according to present invention, comprises ~~consists of~~ expanded (unfolded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) ~~that are not deformed by force and contracted (folded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) interspersed among the expanded ones so that not many consecutive expanded folds~~ ~~2, 5 exist without interference of one 3 or more 4 contracted ones in order to achieve the best possible straightening up of the straw.~~ Further, the first folds ~~1~~ are contracted, so that after straightening, the straw may bend to all directions. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- No mention is made to straws that are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are continuously ~~permanently~~ bent until their use. Besides, approximately 28 years have lapsed since then but no one has thought of some of the recommended innovations. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 1 Shows indicatively a straw in bent position, with one

Page 4 of 13

Appl. No. 10/089,901

Amdt. dated Oct. 30, 2003

Reply to Office Action of Nov. 15, 2002

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The invention relates to flexible straws with one (or more) corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising ~~consisting of~~ re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), which are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are continuously ~~permanently~~ bent until their use in order to take up less space. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The straws used to date for this purpose have one corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising ~~consisting of~~ 8-10 re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds). [The first (or the last) fold, being firm, is not counted as re-entrant overlapping fold]. To bend to obtuse angles (e.g. 180°) due to the restricted number of folds, continuous external pressure has to be exercised. This pressure keeps being exercised by the packaging material afterwards as well. As a result the folds are permanently deformed and straightening of the straw is not possible. Also a problem is posed by the fact that all folds are expanded (unfolded) after bending of the straw. (e.g. The U-shaped straws.) --

Appl. No. 10/089,901
Amdt. dated Oct. 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 15, 2002

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The corrugated zone (flexible zone) of the new straw according to present invention, comprises ~~consists of~~ expanded (unfolded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) ~~that are not deformed by force~~ and contracted (folded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) interspersed among the expanded ones so that not many consecutive expanded folds ~~2, 5~~ exist without interference of one ~~3~~ or more ~~4~~ contracted ones ~~in order to achieve the best possible straightening up of the straw~~. Further, the first folds ~~4~~ are contracted, so that after straightening, the straw may bend to all directions. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- No mention is made to straws that are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are continuously ~~permanently~~ bent until their use. Besides, approximately 28 years have lapsed since then but no one has thought of some of the recommended innovations. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 1 Shows indicatively a straw in bent position, with one

Appl. No. 10/089,901
Amdt. dated Oct. 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 15, 2002

corrugated zone having certain ~~fold~~ re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) contracted. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- To assist straightening up of the straw, when all its ~~fold~~ re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) are expanded after bending (like the case is until today), the straw must have sufficient folds (more than ten), so that when it bends, the folds are not deformed by force. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In order definite folds remain contracted, apart from their number certain other factors are of importance as well, like the material, point ~~(or points)~~ at which pressure is exerted to bend the straw, ~~the shape and the position of fulcrum (or fulcrums)~~ etc. ~~(e.g. The pressure is applied on a fixed point and the position of the fulcrum changes as the straw bends).~~ --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In case the straw has more than one corrugated zones (flexible zones) comprising ~~consisting of~~ re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), [e.g. the S-shaped straws – EP-A-

30 Oct. '03 2:58

H. R.

FAX +30 210 822 5415

P. 9

Appl. No. 10/089,901

Amdt. dated Oct. 30, 2003

Reply to Office Action of Nov. 15, 2002

**0 327 244 (ELOPAK SYSTEMS AG)] the above are applied on
all zones. --**